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ABSTRACT

Recent advances in neuroscience have engaged the interest of early childhood educators who believe that the more we know about the brain, the better able we will be to influence learning. This workshop facilitator's guide and set of two videotapes are designed to assist educators, students, caregivers, parents, and those providing services to young children and their families in using information about the brain to facilitate the growth and development of the young child. The materials provide information about research on the brain and the implications for teaching and learning. The facilitator's guide is presented in four sections: (1) an introduction presenting an overview of the philosophy, principles, and research pertaining to the brain, learning, and early childhood education; (2) four workshop agendas, including the time guide, materials list, and information to organize and conduct the workshops; (3) handouts and overheads; and (4) readings and resources for copying and distributing to workshop participants. Workshops range in length from 1 hour 15 minutes to 2 hours 45 minutes, including a videotape segment of approximately 35 minutes each. The first videotape, "A Mind of Their Own," explains recent research about how the brain works and factors influencing growth and development. The second videotape, "The Act of Learning," examines the importance of providing a continuum of developmentally appropriate educational experiences for young children, with a focus on play as a brain-compatible teaching and learning tool. The facilitator's guide contains 20 references. (KB)

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